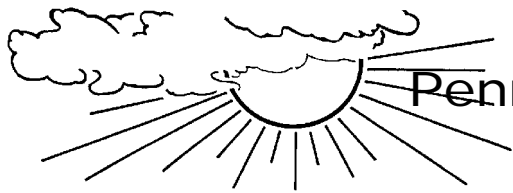




United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Pennsylvania Agricultural
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Pennsylvania: Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending May 7, 2000

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Good Week for Field Work: Warm, drier conditions allowed farmers to complete more field work than in previous weeks. There were 5.6 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated 7 percent short, 89 percent adequate and 4 percent surplus. Activities included spring plowing; planting oats, potatoes, field corn and sweet corn, and alfalfa; ensiling small grains; fixing fences; machinery maintenance; ordering supplies; spreading lime and fertilizers; hauling manure; caring for livestock; and spraying fruit trees, alfalfa, and weeds.

Crops: The recent warm, dry conditions benefitted planting of most commodities last week. Twenty-eight percent of the corn acreage was planted by week's end, compared to 8 percent the previous week. Eighty-six percent of the State's oats were planted, relative to 61 percent the previous week. Barley was heading over a week ahead of normal. Hay was just starting to be cut in a few areas.

Livestock: Pastures were mostly in good to excellent condition last week. Pasture growth continued to be slow in some areas. Some pastures showed evidence of overgrazing while in other areas the pasture looked good. Some livestock were being fed in the barn.

Fruit & Vegetables: Most of the fruit blossoming was complete. Warm weather vegetable crops were planted under plastic. The soil was too cold for planting in some areas.

U.S. As Of April 30, 2000: Planting rapidly progressed in the western Corn Belt, Great Plains, lower Mississippi Valley, and parts of the Southeast. Lingering wetness and cool weather hindered planting progress in parts of the eastern Corn Belt and Atlantic Coastal Plains. Cold soil temperatures delayed seed germination and emergence in the eastern Corn Belt. Winter wheat rapidly progressed to the heading stage in the lower Mississippi Valley and southern Great Plains, despite below-normal temperatures. In the upper Mississippi Valley and northern Great Plains, dry weather aided small grain seeding and above-normal

temperatures promoted germination and growth where topsoil moisture supplies were adequate. Thirty-three percent of the Nation's winter wheat crop was at the heading stage or beyond, compared with last year's 26-percent progress, and nearly 1 week ahead of the 21-percent average. Development rapidly continued, despite below-normal temperatures in the lower Mississippi Valley and Southeast. Wheat fields in the Corn Belt and central Great Plains also quickly progressed to the heading stage. In the northern Great Plains, above-normal temperatures promoted rapid development, but no fields were heading. U.S. corn plantings rapidly advanced to 49 percent of the intended acreage, more than 1 week ahead of last year's 17-percent pace and more than double the 5-year average of 23 percent. With most of the pre-planting field preparations complete, growers in the western Corn Belt spent most of the week planting corn. Acreage planted jumped 55 percentage points in Iowa and 65 percentage points in Minnesota. Progress was more modest in the central and eastern Corn Belt. Nine percent of the crop was emerged, 4 percentage points ahead of the same date last year. Emergence rapidly progressed along the Missouri, Mississippi, and Ohio River Valleys in the southern Corn Belt, but cold soil temperatures delayed germination in other areas of the Corn Belt. About one-fourth of the crop was emerged in Kentucky and Kansas, 40 percent was emerged in Tennessee, and over half of the acreage was emerged in Missouri. Eight percent of the intended U.S. soybean acreage was planted, 5 percentage points ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Planting was most advanced in the Mississippi Delta. U.S. oat seeding advanced to 68 percent of intended acreage, 1 week ahead of last year's 51-percent pace, and nearly 2 weeks ahead of the 41-percent average for this date. The U.S. barley crop was 56-percent seeded, 15 percentage points ahead of last year's pace, and more than 1 week ahead of the 5-year average of 34 percent. Progress was aided by dry weather. Twenty-one percent of the crop was emerged, compared with 15 percent last year and 13 percent normally emerged by this date.

PA Crop Progress For Week Ending May 7, 2000

	Current Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	Percent			
Spring Plowing	71	51	75	71
Corn, Planted	28	8	34	27
Barley, Headed	67	46	33	35
Winter Wheat, Headed	5	3	11	10
Oats, Planted	86	61	82	76
Oats, Emerged	57	37	49	N/A
Soybeans, Planted	7	2	5	3
Potatoes, Planted	32	11	38	31

N/A = Not available

PA Crop Condition For Week Ending May 7, 2000

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	0	2	7	70	21
Oats	0	2	20	72	6
Alfalfa, Stands	2	6	20	62	10
Timothy Clover, Stands	5	6	17	59	13
Pasture Conditions	2	4	32	55	7

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Weather Data For Week Ending May 7, 2000																		
Reporting Station	Weekly Temperature				Growing Degree Days From April 1				Rainfall - Values Are For A 24-Hour Period Ending 7:00 A.M., In Inches									
	High	Low	Avg	Dep From Norm	40 Degrees		50 Degrees		May							For Week	From April 1	
					Days	Dep From Norm	Days	Dep From Norm	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total	Total	Dep From Norm
Erie	80	39	61	8	352	80	117	96	0.00	0.71	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.79	6.76	2.79
Warren	83	35	58	5	349	105	104	80	0.00	0.55	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.56	6.97	2.60
Franklin	87	36	61	8	436	162	149	115	0.00	0.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.55	3.61	-0.73
Clearfield	86	34	61	7	357	74	119	79	0.00	0.32	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.35	6.17	1.96
Pittsburgh	85	39	63	7	494	95	193	122	0.00	0.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.51	4.71	0.79
Rector	84	30	60	4	374	-25	128	57	0.00	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.75	5.62	1.70
Altoona	81	39	62	6	415	33	148	63	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	4.74	0.89
Emporium	87	31	59	5	355	72	108	68	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.35	5.65	1.44
Wellsboro	82	33	57	8	269	112	78	78	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.19	5.35	2.38
State College	86	38	64	8	459	117	173	102	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	4.19	0.60
Williamsport	88	34	61	5	476	75	155	78	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.03	0.00	0.25	5.82	1.51
Selinsgrove	89	35	60	5	435	75	137	80	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.20	4.47	0.44
Montrose	82	28	55	5	289	121	84	82	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.28	7.86	3.35
Scranton	86	35	61	6	427	74	151	97	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	4.18	0.47
Allentown	87	37	63	7	482	71	184	100	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.24	4.66	-0.02
Reading	87	36	62	6	522	129	195	121	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.22	3.51	-1.28
Harrisburg	90	37	64	6	592	119	229	109	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	4.58	0.43
Biglerville	87	39	63	5	489	39	170	48	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.19	4.76	0.65
Lancaster	86	36	62	4	499	26	180	60	0.00	0.24	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.35	3.74	-0.41
Philadelphia	88	36	63	4	592	87	219	75	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.22	4.07	-0.42

Weather Summary By: National Weather Service, State College, Pennsylvania

Crop Summary By: Liana Cuffman, Agricultural Statistician, NASS

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